



June 2001

---

## **Gallagher, AFRL Sensors, finally receives Air Medal** *by Tiffany Pitts, ASC Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — A Gulf War Veteran recently received a long overdue Air Medal for his participation in Operation Desert Storm.

Ted Gallagher, contractor with Ball Aerospace in the Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) Sensors Directorate, received this medal ten years after completing a combat mission.

"During the time I spent on active duty, I never paid much attention to medals, but this Air Medal is different," Gallagher said. "It holds special meaning for me not only because of the events for which it was awarded, but also because of the circumstances under which I received it."

With the persistence of retired Lt. Col. Jim Baer, Gallagher was presented the Air Medal at a recent AFRL Sensors Applications and Demonstration's Division call. Baer was formerly the deputy of the Sensors Applications and Demonstrations Division.

"When Baer heard the story of this mission, he researched the regulations and located the crewmembers who also had flown ten years ago. He also obtained eyewitness accounts and copies of citations received by other members of the crew," Gallagher said. "He then prepared and submitted the package with the cooperation and support of the directorate's management."

Gallagher, who was a captain during this mission, participated in aerial flight as a B-52 radar navigator. He was a crewmember of a lone B-52G aircraft that engaged and damaged one of Iraq's largest munitions plants, the Al Hadithah Storage and Munitions Depot in northwestern Iraq.

While others involved in the 1991 bombing mission received their air medals, Gallagher did not.

According to Gallagher, Baer took it upon himself to see that the medal was awarded simply because he thought it ought to be done.

"It is the actions of individuals like Baer— motivated by a personal sense of duty and responsibility that have always been the greatest strength of the military, and why this medal will always hold special meaning for me," Gallagher said. @